

Message Text

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ACTION SR-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 ORM-01 SCA-01 DPW-01 SP-02

L-03 H-02 AID-05 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 HEW-02 AGR-05

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3419

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTIAGO 3572

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ICRC, CI

SUBJECT: ICRC ACTIVITIES IN CHILE

REF: GENEVA 3946

1. WE NOTE REFTEL'S REQUEST FOR ADVICE FROM THE DEPARTMENT CONCERNING ADDITIONAL USG CONTRIBUTIONS TO ICRC FUND FOR PROGRAM ACTIVITIES IN CHILE.
 2. WE CAN TESTIFY TO DILIGENCE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF ICRC ACTIVITIES HERE. AS OUR REPORTING SINCE 1973 COUP SUBSTANTIATES, ICRC HAS BEEN IN FOREFRONT IN PROVIDING VITAL HUMANITARIAN SERVICES TO SECURITY DETAINEES AND THEIR FAMILIES. VISITS BY ICRC REPS TO DETENTION CENTERS HAVE BEEN MAJOR FACTOR IN IMPROVING PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL CONDITIONS FOR MOST DETAINEES. ICRC OFFICE HERE ALSO SERVES AS PRIME POINT FOR HANDLING INQUIRIES, INCLUDING MANY FROM US CONGRESSIONAL AND OTHER SOURCES, CONCERNING SITUATION OF CHILEAN CITIZENS DETAINED BY GOC.
 3. IN ITS WORK, ICRC HAS COOPERATED CLOSELY AND SMOOTHLY WITH SUCH OTHER INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES AS UNHCR AND ICEM. IT HAS ALSO MAINTAINED THE CONFIDENCE OF THE GOC IN ITS DISINTERESTED,
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NON-POLITICAL IMPARTIALITY, AND IT HAS KEPT SANTIAGO EMBASSIES OF COOPERATING GOVERNMENTS FULLY BUT DISCREETLY INFORMED OF

DEVELOPING G/A IN EXPECTED ACCELERATION OF DETAINEE RELEASE PROGRAM (SANTIAGO 3466), ICRC WILL PLAY A MAJOR ROLE. ICRC ALSO PERFORMS A USEFUL MONITORING FUNCTION ON GOC HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES, AND ITS ACTIVITIES IN CHILE SERVE TO REMIND GOC OF INTERNATIONAL CONCERN REGARDING THOSE PRACTICES.

4. FROM OUR LIMITED PERSPECTIVE IN SANTIAGO, WE WOULD BE EXTREMELY SORRY TO SEE A REDUCTION IN ICRC ACTIVITIES IN CHILE.
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